

# Tempe Today



## a community newsletter

volume 24 ~ Issue 4 April 2008



## 2008 Spirit of Tempe Award

Don and Bobbie Cassano were presented with the Tempe Chamber of Commerce Spirit of Tempe Award on Feb. 29 during the 11th Annual Breakfast for Chamber Champions. The award recognizes lifetime achievements of service and dedication to the community, and honors hard work towards improving the quality of life in Tempe. The Cassanos have lived in Tempe for more than 30 years, and have established tremendous records of service to the community.

Don Cassano has been a member of the Tempe City Council, president of the Tempe Chamber Board of Directors, president of the Arizona Clean and Beautiful Advisory Board, chair of the Valley Business Council and more. Among his accolades has been receiving the Tempe Community Council Don Carlos Humanitarian Award and the Tempe South Rotary Howard Pyle Vocational Service Award.

Bobbie Cassano served as president of the Tempe Chamber Board of Directors, president of Tempe/Kyrene Communities in Schools, an organization that she helped found in 1996. She has been president of Tempe Leadership, president of the Tempe Governors and more. Among Bobbie's many recognitions are the Don Carlos Humanitarian Award and the Tempe Chamber of Commerce Business Woman of the Year Award.

## **Tempe gets high marks from residents**

## Survey captures record satisfaction with city services, programs and facilities

Results are in from the City of Tempe's first comprehensive citizen satisfaction survey since 2000 and residents have expressed largely positive feedback on essential services and amenities provided by the city.

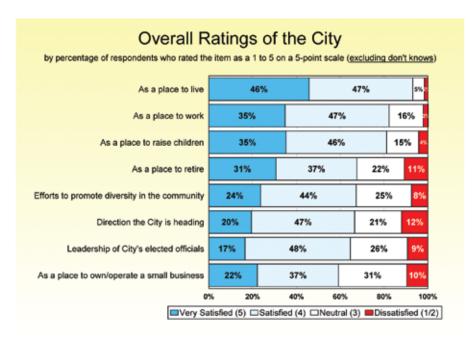
More than 1,000 residents weighed in on questions dealing with water service, parks, trash collection, public safety and more. Their ratings give the City of Tempe important information about how well it is providing services.

Kansas-based ETC Institute conducted the survey and compared Tempe to its database of cities across the country. Tempe ranked in the top five percent of cities nationally when it came to the satisfaction of residents. Survey respondents expressed overall satisfaction levels of 88 percent – that's 35 percent above the national average.

#### Highlights include:

- Satisfaction with bulk item pickup and removal services rated 22 percent above the national average (82 percent in Tempe vs. 60 percent in U.S.)
- Satisfaction with the condition of streets in neighborhoods rated 16 percent above the national average (76 percent in Tempe vs. 60 percent in U.S.)
- Satisfaction with city water services rated 15 percent above the national average (88 percent in Tempe vs. 73 percent in U.S.)

Complete survey results are available at www.tempe.gov/news/2007satsurvey.htm



## **Tempe events honor our planet**

Celebrate Mother Nature during Earth Month in April and on Earth Day, which is April 26. Several activities are planned throughout Tempe in honor of our planet, and residents are invited to participate:

#### Earth Day 5K

The Tempe Earth Day 5K and Green Expo aims to raise awareness of environmentally-friendly practices. The event includes live music from 5-8 p.m., a free green expo, a costume contest and a kids' race. The 5K starts at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 22, at the Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway, and will follow the south bank of Tempe Town Lake. Environmentally-friendly companies are invited to participate in the expo – call 480-220-2019 or e-mail info@runningmasters. net for more information. The event will fund a scholarship to Arizona State University's School of Sustainability. For more information, visit www.tempe.gov/lake/earthday5k.htm. To register for the Earth Day 5K, visit www.active.com.

## **Recycle athletic shoes**

Get your old shoes back in the game. The City of Tempe, in partnership with the Nike Reuse-A-Shoe program, collects and recycles any brand of used athletic shoes and keeps them out of landfills. The shoes are ground up and used to make new athletic surfaces like soccer fields, basketball courts and running tracks. Participants in the Earth Day 5K (above) will be able to donate old shoes at the event. For information about Tempe's nine dropoff locations, call 480-350-8234 or visit <a href="https://www.tempe.gov/neighborhoods/shoes.htm">www.tempe.gov/neighborhoods/shoes.htm</a>.

### **Shred personal documents**

Protect yourself from identity theft by shredding sensitive and personal documents during a free community Shred-A-Thon, sponsored by the City of Tempe's Public Works Solid Waste Division and Premier Document Shredding. Tempe residents can watch their documents being destroyed on Saturday, April 19, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., at 2250 W. Broadway Rd., Suite 104, in Mesa, zip code 85202. For more information, call 480-350-8224 or visit <a href="https://www.tempe.gov/recycling">www.tempe.gov/recycling</a>.

## Annual Town Lake clean-up needs volunteers

Volunteer to revitalize Tempe Town Lake at the city's annual clean-up project, on Saturday, April 26, from 7-11 a.m. Help restore the lake habitat by picking up litter, weeding, raking and sprucing up the shores so the lake can continue to be an incredible setting for enjoyment and recreation. For more information or to sign up, call 480-350-8625.

## **Recycle household products**

Help keep Tempe clean and safe by using the Valley's first permanent Household Products Collection Center (HPCC). The Tempe HPCC, located at 1320 E. University Drive, accepts any household paint, chemical or pesticide – even if it's old and has no label. Properly recycling these substances prevents them from being dumped down drains, dumped onto the ground or placed in the trash, all of which are harmful to ground water and urban lakes.

The Tempe HPCC cannot accept tires, appliances, needles, ammunition and radioactive waste. Use caution in transporting chemicals to the center by never mixing products and never putting containers in the same bag.

In celebration of Earth Day, the HPCC will hold tours of the facility and will host a swap area. Starting April 21-25, the HPCC will be open from 7 a.m. to noon. Tours will be given daily at 9 and 11 a.m. For more information, call 480-350-2818 or visit <a href="https://www.tempe.gov/HHW/">www.tempe.gov/HHW/</a>.

## **City Council Budget Review**

A schedule has been set for the City Council's review and approval of the 2008-2009 City of Tempe budget. All meetings are open to the public and are held in the Council Chambers, located in the garden level of Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St. The times and topics are:

April 10, 3pm, Budget review session (CIP)

April 17, 6pm, Budget review session (CIP if needed

and operating budget)

May 22, 1pm, Adoption of tentative budget. Public

hearing and final adoption of Capital

Improvement Program.

June 5, 7:30pm, Final budget adoption. First public

hearing for property tax ordinance.

June 19, 3pm, Final property tax adoption

## **Spring is bee season**

Spring in the Valley is a time for beautiful weather and lots of outdoor outings. It's also a time to be cautious of bee activity. If bees are attacking on private or public property, call 911. If you need to have a hive removed at your home or business, call private beekeepers or extermination companies. The City of Tempe does not remove hives on private property. If you notice bee swarms or hives on city property on weekdays, call Parks and Recreation at 480-350-5200. If bees are seen at night or on weekends, call the Police Department's non-emergency number at 480-350-8311 and Parks and Recreation staff will be contacted.

## Free bus passes for youth

Starting May 12, the City of Tempe will being issuing free 2008-2009 bus passes for Tempe youth. In its fourth year, the Tempe Youth Free Bus Pass program allows students ages six to 18, who are residents of Tempe, to ride all Valley Metro bus routes for free.

Current bus passes expire June 30. The new passes will be valid July 1 through June 30, 2009. To register, a parent or guardian must accompany the child and bring the child's birth certificate. Applicants must provide proof of current Tempe residency. Free passes are available on May 31, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., on the lower lever of the Tempe Public Library, 3500 S. Rural Rd. Passes are also available at the Tempe Transit Store, at College Ave. and Veterans Way, Monday-Saturday, from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call the Tempe Transit Store at 480-858-2350 or visit www.tempe.gov/tim. For bus routes and schedules, call 602-253-5000 or visit www.valleymetro.org.

## Considering a remodeling project on your home?

Building permits protect your loved ones and your property, and are required for projects of all shapes and sizes. In recognition of Building Safety Week, the City of Tempe's Development Services Department is holding an open house with office tours to get familiar with their processes. The event takes place on May 7, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Development Services Conference Room on the garden level of Tempe City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St. For more information, call 480-350-8341 and select Option 1, or visit www.tempe.gov/bsafety. Your residential project may be eligible for a permit fee rebate. For more information on rebates, visit www.tempe.gov/bsafety/PermitCenter/Rebate%20Program.htm.

## **Music Under the Stars**

Enjoy Music Under the Stars, a unique gathering of ensembles, on April 18, at 7 p.m., at the Lakeside Amphitheater at the Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. Music Under the Stars celebrates diversity in arts and culture, and sets the tone for a broader community-wide appreciation for the arts and cultural diversity. Participating ensembles include the Arizona Wind Symphony, the Academy Drum & Bugle Corps, Desert Vista High School and Corona del Sol High School. Music Under the Stars is sponsored by the City of Tempe and by a grant from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community.

## Tempe emergency responders encourage the use of ICE

The Tempe Fire and Police departments are recommending that community members assist emergency response personnel by putting "In Case of Emergency" numbers in their cell phones.

The "In Case of Emergency," or ICE, concept has become popular in recent years, with first responders encouraging people to program their loved ones' contact information into their cell phones in case of emergency. Examples include typing "ICE 1 – Mom," "ICE 2 – Dad," "ICE 3 – Work," along with the corresponding phone numbers. If a victim is unconscious, a first responder will then be able to quickly contact those who may have valuable information about the victim or those who should be informed about the emergency. The idea also works for those who have disabilities or language barriers that would prevent communication in an emergency.





## Myrtle Cheney Murdock

Though Myrtle Cheney Murdock lived in Tempe

only a short time, she made a big impact on this area and on Arizona through her achievements.

Born in Illinois in 1885, Myrtle became a teacher at 15 and worked in Missouri and Oklahoma, She and her husband, John Robert Murdock, had a daughter and son there before moving to Tempe in 1914. John taught history at Tempe Normal School (now Arizona State University) and their second son was born in 1919. Myrtle and one of her sons moved to Tucson so that she could pursue a Master of Arts in Education from the University of Arizona, which she received in 1927. They returned to Tempe, where Myrtle taught at Phoenix College.

In 1936, John Murdock won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Myrtle founded and was elected the first president of the congressional wives group, the 75 Club. She wrote a regular column for the Arizona Republic, entitled, "Washington Life from the Congressman's Wife."

Her oldest son, David, was a first lieutenant in the army in World War II, and was killed in action in 1943. After the war, Murdock wrote books about Washington, D.C., memorials and history. In 1953, at age 67, she got a job as a tour guide at the Capitol, which she continued to enjoy for many years. She died at age 94.

Myrtle Murdock transcended the gender barriers of her time to accomplish many things, including raising a family, earning several degrees, becoming a published author, and serving as a lecturer, tour guide and teacher.

## Calendar

## **City Council Meetings**

The April/May schedule for Tempe City Council meetings

## **April 3, 2008**

3pm, Budget review session (CIP)

#### **April 10, 2008**

3 p.m., Special Budget Review Session

## April 17, 2008

6p.m., Budget review session (CIP if needed and operating budget)

### May 1, 2008

6 p.m., Issue Review Session 7:30 p.m., Council Meeting

#### May 15, 2008

6 p.m., Issue Review Session 7:30 p.m., Council Meetingn

#### May 22, 2008

1p.m., Adoption of tentative budget. Public hearing and final adoption of Capital Improvement Program.

Meetings are aired live on Tempe 11 and the Internet at

www.tempe.gov/tempe11.

City Council meetings are held in the Council Chambers at City Hall, 31 E. Fifth St. Agendas are posted 24 hours before each meeting outside the Council Chambers and on the second floor of City Hall. Meetings are subject to change. Confirm dates and times with the City Clerk's Office, 480-350-8241 or on the Web site at www.tempe.gov/clerk.

## **Tempe City Council**

Hugh Hallman, Mayor
Hut Hutson, Vice Mayor
P. Ben Arredondo, Councilmember
Barbara J. Carter, Councilmember
Shana Ellis, Councilmember
Mark W. Mitchell, Councilmember
Onnie Shekerjian, Councilmember

Charlie Meyer, City Manager

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To contact the Mayor and Council, call 480-350-8110.

City of Tempe 31 E. 5th St., Tempe, AZ 85281 www.tempe.gov

## News you can use

#### **Become a leader in the Tempe community**

Tempe Leadership is looking for emerging and established leaders who live or work in Tempe to participate in the upcoming class. Tempe Leadership fosters leadership skills through education, experience and service to the community in a nine-month program sponsored by the Tempe Chamber of Commerce. Each class consists of a diverse group of individuals from businesses, non-profit organizations, government and educational institutions, as well as community volunteers. For more information or an application, call the Chamber at 480-967-7891 or visit www.tempeleadership.org.

#### Tempe Leadership Class XXIII announces 'Change for Change' project

The 21 members of Tempe Leadership Class XXIII are working on a class project called "Change for Change, which will involve the installation of 11 parking meters in downtown Tempe whose proceeds will go to assisting the homeless. The meters will be painted to encourage Mill Avenue visitors to feed the meters rather than giving money directly to panhandlers. An estimated 300-400 homeless people are in Tempe, including families and single mothers. All money collected from the project will be used to provide resources and shelter services through human service agencies. For more information on Tempe Leadership, visit www.tempeleadership.org. For more information on the Change for Change project, visit www.tlc23.com.

### **Tempe Youth Wind Symphony concert**

The Tempe Youth Wind Symphony, an honor band of 72 middle and high school students, will perform its free inaugural concert on April 16, starting at 7:30 p.m., in the main theater of the Tempe Center for the Arts, 700 W. Rio Salado Parkway. The symphony offers a unique performance opportunity for youth. Players were nominated by their schools' band directors, and come from 16 different schools in Tempe. There is no charge for the tickets, but they are required to attend. Tickets are available through band members or by calling the TCA ticket office at 480-350-2822.

#### Pat's Run to benefit the Pat Tillman Foundation

Have fun and run for a cause at the Fourth Annual Pat's Run, benefitting the Pat Tillman Foundation. The 4.2-mile run and walk takes place on April 19, with a timed run beginning at 7 a.m., and a non-timed walk beginning at 7:30 a.m. Children ages 12 and under will be able to participate in the free 0.42-mile run. All events finish on the 42-yard line of Arizona State University's Sun Devil Stadium, on Fifth Street between College Avenue and Veterans Way. Register online through April 15, or in person April 16-18, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., at the Sun Devil Stadium North End. Registration is also available from 5 - 7:15 a.m. on the morning of the race at Packard Drive and Rio Salado Parkway. The 4.2-mile Run/Walk is \$30 per person through April 13, and \$35 thereafter. The event will feature live music and a carnival, and an awards ceremony at 10 a.m. For more information on the foundation or to register for Pat's Run, visit www.pattillmanfoundation.org.

#### **Rotary River Rally**

Get your team ready to sink or swim in the Great Cardboard Boat Regatta, part of the Ninth Annual Rotary River Rally. Tempe's Rotary Clubs are sponsoring the race, held on April 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Tempe Town Lake. Spectators can view the cardboard boats and vote for their favorites at this fun community event, which raises money for children's charities. Each year, teams build boats made of corrugated cardboard and paddle a 200-yard course on Tempe Town Lake. Participants include youth groups, high school and college students, company teams, families and individuals. Not only do participants race for the fastest time, there are also special trophies for the Best Dressed, Most Spirited, Most Creative and the Titanic Award for the most spectacular sinking! For more information, visit www.rotaryriverrally.com or call 602-432-7272.